Microalgae in the UK

Environmental Permitting

An environmental permit (or exemption) is likely to be needed if anything that enters or leaves the site is classified as a waste.

The regional contacts are detailed here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Main implementing legislation</th>
<th>Primary implementing agency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>The Pollution Prevention &amp; Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000</td>
<td>Scottish Environmental Protection Agency <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk">www.sepa.org.uk</a></td>
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Planning

Permission for construction of an algal growth facility is highly dependent on the scale, and the type of building housing PBRs etc. Small test facilities may be exempt: Building Regulations (2010) Schedule 2, Class III “Greenhouses and Agricultural Buildings”. This may also be relevant for small polytunnel structures.

For larger premises planning permission will be required. While the process for obtaining permission is site-specific, an overview of the steps and timelines are given below:

- Pre-application submission / Consultation: (optional) meeting with council in advance of submitting application. Community engagement may be useful.
- Planning Application: submitted in electronic format, online via a Planning Portal. This will include detailed existing / proposed floor and site plans as well as a design and access statement. The application should also be accompanied by a supporting planning statement detailing how the proposals accord with current planning policy.
- Application Process: The planning application process is likely to take either 8 or 13 weeks from registration, depending on scale.

Regulatory Issues

Regulatory issues are very much dependent on end use of biomass. Please consult the relevant factsheet for further information.

Factsheet #15. Algae as Feedstock for Energy Generation - European fuel quality and other bioenergy legislation are explained
Factsheet #16. Algae as Feedstock for Chemicals - this covers REACH and other pertinent legislation
Factsheet #17. Algae as Feedstock for Food or Feed - FEMAS and other regulations for entering the food chain are described in more detail.